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BEECH AIRCRAFT has seen its order backlog for the Starship plunge during the past two months as it attempted to "reconfirm" previous orders. Beech said "the reduction in backlog at the end of September reflects the removal of eight aircraft for customers who did not reconfirm their orders. An additional 14 customers declined to reconfirm in October." Number of firm orders for the Starship is now 40, Beech said, compared to 62 when the reconfirmation process began. The 40 orders are "in excess of two years production" at the anticipated production rate.

WINNING BIDDER for the Hughes Aviation Services fixed-base operation at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nev. may be selected this week. Hughes Corp. announced this spring it planned to sell the FBO to concentrate on real estate development (BA, May 16/154) and bids for the facility were being evaluated last week.

MASSPORT officials refused to comment last week on DOT Law Judge Burton Kolko's ruling that the PACE Plan at Boston Logan should be declared illegal (BA, Nov. 14/153). Massport officials held a press conference in Boston Wednesday in which they released figures on the effects of the PACE Plan since its implementation and said they would file a formal response to Kolko's decision today.

REP. NORMAN MINETA, chairman of the House aviation subcommittee, indicated last week he plans to retain that position in the 101st Congress. There had been speculation Mineta might switch to chairing the surface transportation subcommittee.

DOT DRUG RULES WILL REQUIRE TESTING FOR 538,000 AVIATION EMPLOYES

Rules issued by the Transportation Department last week requiring more than 4 million transportation employes to undergo drug testing, include approximately 538,000 employes in the aviation industry (BA, Jan. 26, 1987/25). Those subject to testing include pilots operating under Parts 135 or 121, flight instructors, ground instructors, mechanics, flight dispatchers, engineers, airport security screening personnel, and flight attendants. Rule does not apply to private pilots, but does include pilots engaged in crop dusting or banner towing. Private pilots may be subject to post-accident and periodic testing in the future, according to a DOT spokesman. Rules will require five types of testing: pre-employment, periodic, random, reasonable cause, and post-accident for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, and phencyclidine (PCP).

Rules do not require an employer to provide rehabilitation or job security to an employe who tests positive. Transportation Secretary James Burnley said DOT's job is "to get the employe out of the position." The rule states it is "inconsistent with (FAA's) safety responsibilities to promote the message that drug use in the aviation industry will be tolerated until an individual's drug use is detected through testing." An employe who tests positive will also be subject to further testing for "a reasonable period of time" following rehabilitation, Burnley said. Rules do require, however, the employer to provide an employe assistance program (EAP) which will include education and training for employes on the hazards of drug use and training for supervisors making determinations to test employes based on reasonable cause.

Burnley said he considers random testing to be the "most important part" of the program. He

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STATUS OF AIRPORT & AIRWAY TRUST FUND

SEPTEMBER 30, 1988

	CURRENT MONTH	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
I. BALANCE - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	$ 11,060,251,892.02	$ 9,934,926,899.36
II. RECEIPTS:		
A. Excise Taxes (Transferred from General Fund):		
Any liquid fuel except gas	5,762,000.00	74,585,000.00
Tires used on aircraft	0.00	0.00
Tubes used on aircraft	0.00	0.00
Gasoline		
1. Commercial 9 cents tax	225,000.00	4,259,000.00
2. Non-commercial 9 cents tax	1,187,000.00	28,783,000.00
3. Non-commercial 3 cents tax	306,000.00	9,629,000.00
4. Transp by air,seats,berths,etc.	331,171,000.00	2,815,009,000.00
Use of international trav fac	14,033,000.00	94,779,000.00
Transp of property and cargo	15,191,000.00	167,692,000.00
Total Tax Receipts	367,875,000.00	3,194,736,000.00
B. Less Reimbursement to General Fund - Refund of Taxes and Estimated Tax Credits :		
1. Civil aircraft	0.00	-9,320.00
2. Any liquid fuel except gas	0.00	-2,393,960.00
3. Gasoline -Retailer's tax	0.00	-3,700,000.00
4. Gasoline -Manufac. tax	0.00	0.00
Total Reimburse For Tax Refunds	0.00	-6,105,280.00
Net Tax Receipts	367,875,000.00	3,188,630,720.00
C. Interest on Investments	4,953,738.75	892,625,997.42
Net Receipts	372,828,738.75	4,081,256,717.42
III. EXPENDITURES :		
A. Federal Aviation Administration :		
1. Operations	72,579,586.00	829,704,925.00
2. Grants-in-aid for airports	116,621,026.21	825,223,364.38
3. Facilities & equipment	97,940,415.66	1,043,039,948.49
4. Research engineering & development	18,694,350.50	169,683,156.51
B. NOAA weather services	7,072,750.00	28,291,000.00
C. Interest on Refund of Taxes	0.00	68,720.00
Total Expenditures	312,908,128.37	2,896,011,114.38
IV. BALANCE - END OF PERIOD	11,120,172,502.40	11,120,172,502.40
ASSETS :		
Undisbursed Balances:		
Airport & Airway Trust Fund	783.79	
Operations	4,285,449.41	
Grants-in-aid for Airports	-27,559,770.68	
Facilities & Equipment	12,912,373.81	
Research Engineering & Development	-1,132,333.93	
NOAA weather services	0.00	
		$ -11,493,497.60
Investments :		
U.S. TREASURY CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS:		
8-5/8 maturing JUNE 30, 1989	$ 11,131,666,000.00	
		11,131,666,000.00
Total Assets		11,120,172,502.40
LIABILITIES:		0.00
EQUITY:		
Excess of Assets over Liabilities		$ 11,120,172,502.40
Total Liabilities and Equity		11,120,172,502.40